



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Ed Collins – MCCD, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Martin Jaffe - UIC, Marcella Bondie-Keenan (for Anne McKibben) – Elevate Energy, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Mike Prusila (for Patricia Werner) – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Pete Harmer – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Mike Sullivan – Kane / Kendall Council of Mayors, Nancy Williamson – IDNR

Staff Present: Jason Navota, Kate Evasic, Brian Daly, Nora Beck

Others Present: Eve Pytel – Delta Institute, Edith Makra – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Jeffrey Walter -- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Sean Wiedel asked members to give an update on one of their projects as the committee did introductions. Committee members are involved in an array of projects, from analyzing the potential impacts of climate change on our road infrastructure to expanding a community solar project to various watershed restoration projects.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 4 meeting was made by Martin Jaffe, seconded by Wallace Van Buren, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Waste Management in the Chicago Region – Eve Pytel, Delta Institute

Delta Institute conducted a regional waste benchmarking study to determine the economic and environmental costs of current waste management practices for 20 municipalities and then projected out three management scenarios to the year 2040. By increasing rate of recycling and waste diversion, the Chicago region could create up to 39,000 regional jobs

and achieve significant environmental benefits, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from practices such as collection, disposal, transportation, and separation. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Pytel provided an overview of their approach and their findings.

ENR committee members asked a number of questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Technology of transfer stations: Transfer stations have different technology, which allows them to separate materials differently. Metal and glass commodities are weak right now, which hurts recycling. Contamination is an issue. The best contracts for villages are in communities with education. The City of Chicago, which was not in the study, is looking to upgrade the technology in the transfer stations.
- Scavenging. An informal process where material gets handed off before it enters the municipal system. Some communities have a scavenging agreement.
- Is the model using national data? RTI tailored some of the fields based on regional data. For example used characterization studies from Chicago and DCEO. Also used local data on how far waste was traveling and changed the energy demands.
- Will this be used for benchmarking purposes? Delta Institute collected a lot of information about contracts and discovered that communities are paying very different amounts for waste management. Would like to have reports for communities so they understand where they are and could potentially negotiate better deals. Also better resources on what services are available. Some of the best contracts are done by communities who FOIA their neighbors.
- Recommendations for getting to the 40% and 60% diversion goals? Two main strategies, improving technology at the transfer stations and improving education. Municipalities should consider co-bidding contracts. Can bring cost down by reducing contamination.
- Budget impacts. Waste management contracts make up a sizeable chunk of a municipal budget.

5.0 Cook County's Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance – Deb Stone, Cook County Department of Environmental Control

This ordinance has allowed Cook County to achieve recycling or reuse of 90% of building materials from demolitions and renovations, keeping them out of landfills, reclaiming valuable materials, avoiding Greenhouse Gas emissions and creating jobs. Enacted in 2012, the Ordinance sets standards and requirements for building material reuse in suburban Cook County. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Deb Stone provided an overview of the ordinance. Cook County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 was one of the reasons the Department of Environmental Control started this project. The 2012 Solid Waste Plan found that some Cook County residents create more than 7 lbs of waste per day (more than the US average of 4.3 lbs). Construction and Demolition account for 26% of the waste in the county. Stone also described Green Halo, an online interface that contractors use to submit their diversion plans, report actual diversion. The site can connect contractors to the closest recycling locations based on the job site. In addition to diversion, they are seeing a growing market for reused materials.

ENR committee members asked a number of clarifying questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Motivation. In addition to sustainability goals, County leadership saw this as a potential job generator.
- Difference in initial diversion estimates? Ordinance doesn't require the contractors to meet their diversion plan, it requires them to meet the threshold. County gives waivers for mold, fire, other circumstances that may reduce diversion rate.
- Administrative changes? County was already reviewing permits, so not substantially new work.
- Transportation debris, County ordinance doesn't cover infrastructure demolition.

6.0 Public Comment

No public comments.

7.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, April 1, 2015.

8.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 11:00 am, made by Martin Jaffee, seconded by Martha Dooley, and, with all in favor, carried.